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ABSTRACT

Comparative statistics on course attrition in the Maricopa County Community College District are presented for Fall 1971 through Fall 1980. After plotting high point enrollment (final number of students enrolled in a course plus withdrawals and audits), end of semester enrollment (the final number of students enrolled in a course), and percentage of attrition for Fall 1971 through Fall 1980, the report compares Fall 1980 and Fall 1971 data, where available, in each of 127 program areas. An analysis of the data, which are presented on a series of graphs and tables, indicates that: (1) on an average, 21% of the students who enrolled in a course during the ten-year period withdrew or audited the course; (2) this average has varied between 16% (in 1972) to 24% (in 1978 and 1979); (3) both high point enrollment and end of semester enrollment correlate positively with attrition rate; (4) among the curriculum areas, attrition rates varied from 0% to 50% during the semester; (5) no relationship was revealed between enrollment and attrition rates in the curriculum areas; (6) curriculum areas with very low attrition rates in 1980-81 were Stone Masonry (0%), Dental Hygiene (0%), Machinists (0%), Professional Growth (0%), and Plastering-Cement (1%); and (7) courses with especially high attrition rates in 1980-81 were in the areas of Arabic (52%), Assessment and Advisement (45%), Hebrew (40%), Italian (40%), and Accounting (36%). (AYC)

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ED206351

Maricopa Community Colleges

Office of Educational Development

Analytical Studies

Research Report

81-7

COURSE REGISTRATION ATTRITION FALL 1980-81 AND FALL 1971-72

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REPORT NO: 81-7

TITLE: Course Registration Attrition
Fall 1980-81 and Fall 1971-72

PREPARED BY: Marilyn Bresler

DATE PREPARED: August 1981

SOURCES: Computer report S90024-23 for the Fall semesters from 1971-72 through Fall 1980-81 was used. Both the final enrollment and high point enrollment reports were used.

DATA DESCRIPTION AND SUMMARY:

This report presents some statistics on attrition district-wide for the past ten years. The attrition rates reported refer to changes in course registration during a semester. End of semester enrollment is the final number of students registered in a course. High point enrollment is the final total plus withdrawals and audits.

Table 1 shows the attrition rate for the past ten Fall semesters. On the average, 21% of the students who enroll in a course during a semester withdraw (or are audits). In the past ten years, attrition rate has varied between 16% and 24%.

District-wide, attrition rate varies with enrollment. Semesters of high enrollment are semesters of high attrition. Both high point enrollment and end of semester enrollment correlate positively with attrition rate ($r=.74$ and $r=.64$, respectively).

Figure 1 shows the same data presented in Table 1. The positive correlation between enrollment and attrition can be seen on the graph.

Table 2 shows attrition rates broken down by prefix areas for two semesters, Fall 1971-72 and Fall 1980-81. The course registration data and attrition rates reported are not exactly comparable for these two semesters due to curriculum changes.

Among the prefix areas, the attrition rates vary from 0% to about 50% during a semester. There is no relationship between enrollment and attrition among prefix areas. That is, prefix areas of high enrollment do not necessarily also have high attrition rates.

TABLE 1

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

COURSE REGISTRATION ATTRITION FOR ALL CLASSES

FALL 1971-72 THROUGH FALL 1980-81

	HIGH POINT	END OF SEMESTER	PERCENT ATTRITION
FALL 1971-72	114,863	90,748	21%
FALL 1972-73	115,483	96,598	16%
FALL 1973-74	125,093	103,628	17%
FALL 1974-75	149,809	117,383	22%
FALL 1975-76	188,691	144,691	23%
FALL 1976-77	169,040	137,189	19%
FALL 1977-78	169,124	131,239	22%
FALL 1978-79	173,792	132,587	24%
FALL 1979-80	179,857	136,141	24%
FALL 1980-81	179,496	139,849	22%

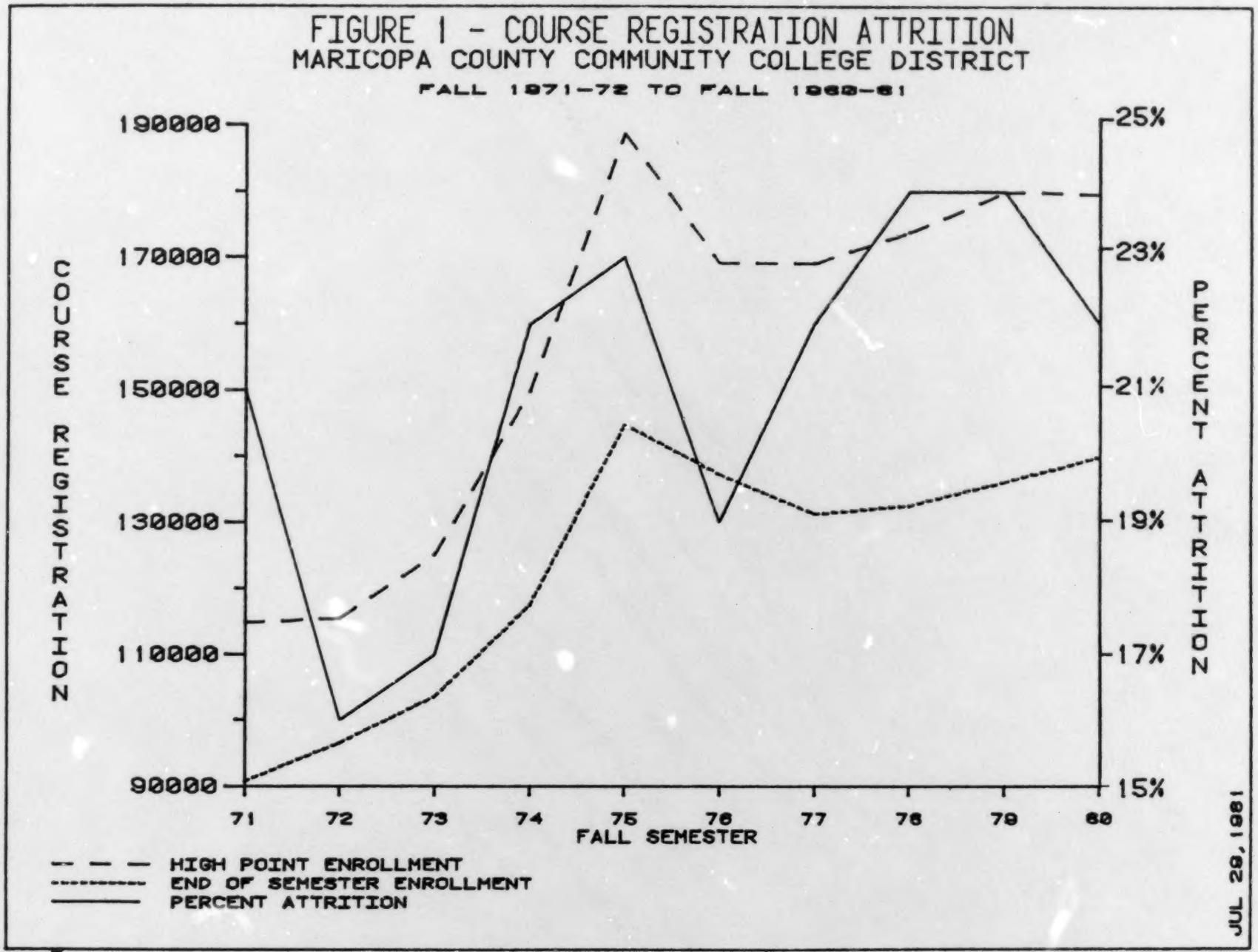
FIGURE 1 - COURSE REGISTRATION ATTRITION
MARICOPA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
FALL 1971-72 TO FALL 1980-81
190000
170000
150000
130000
110000
90000
COURSE REGISTRATION
25%
23%
21%
19%
17%
15%
PERCENT ATTRITION
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
FALL SEMESTER
HIGH POINT ENROLLMENT
END OF SEMESTER ENROLLMENT
PERCENT ATTRITION
JUL 29,1981

TABLE 2

MARICOPA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
COURSE REGISTRATION ATTRITION BY PREFIX AREA
FALL 1980-81 AND FALL 1971-72

		FALL 1980-81			FALL 1971-72		
	Prefix Area	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition
AA	Assess & Advis	301	166	45%	-	-	-
AB	Arabic	25	12	52%	-	-	-
AC	Accounting	5,546	3,525	36%	2,771	1,647	41%
AD	Advertising Arts	281	248	12%	211	170	19%
AE	Aeronautics	462	361	22%	353	222	37%
AF	Air Force ROTC	66	50	24%	-	-	-
AG	Agriculture	1,058	851	20%	651	539	17%
AH	Art Humanities	1,276	1,073	16%	-	-	-
AJ (LE	Adm. of Justice Law Enforcement)	2,699	2,337	13%	1,787	1,521	15%
AN	Anthropology	1,082	898	17%	1,076	863	20%
AR	Art	3,554	2,775	22%	3,494	2,729	22%
AS	Appliance Serv	-	-	-	133	106	20%
AU	Automotive	2,307	1,950	15%	899	748	17%
BG	Building Inspect	370	288	22%	105	77	27%
BI	Biology	7,198	5,543	23%	5,399	4,588	15%
BL	Stone Masonry	99	99	0%	108	108	0%
BR	Bus Mach Repair	35	33	6%	51	51	0%
BT	Biomedical Tech	128	110	14%	-	-	-

Table 2 - Course Registration Attrition by Prefix Area
Fall 1980-81 And Fall 1971-72

		FALL 1980-81			FALL 1971-72		
	Prefix Area	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition
CA	Carpentry	507	483	5%	643	599	7%
CH	Chemistry	3,897	2,861	27%	2,513	2,032	19%
CO	Counseling	2,509	2,059	18%	430	356	17%
CP	Counsel Paraprof	227	185	19%	-	-	-
CR	Court Reporting	229	208	9%	-	-	-
CT	Civil Technology	364	315	13%	122	94	23%
DA	Dental Assisting	273	253	7%	139	133	4%
DE	Data Entry	313	205	35%	-	-	-
DH	Dental Hygiene	258	258	0%	120	120	0%
DP	Data Processing	4,676	3,543	24%	1,498	1,129	25%
DT	Drafting	2,704	2,154	20%	1,324	1,061	20%
EC	Economics	2,994	2,438	19%	1,515	1,148	24%
ED	Education	699	606	13%	498	428	14%
EH	English Humanities	1,834	1,389	24%	-	-	-
EL	Electronics	4,609	3,485	24%	1,467	1,140	22%
EN	English	14,600	10,995	25%	12,186	9,067	26%
EQ	Equine Science	329	285	13%	-	-	-
ES	Engineer Science	958	713	26%	320	253	21%
EY	Electricity	415	347	16%	581	496	15%

Table 2 - Course Registration Attrition By Prefix Area
Fall 1980-81 And Fall 1971-72

		FALL 1980-81			FALL 1971-72		
	Prefix Area	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition
FD	Food Service	141	119	16%	26	19	27%
FP	Fluid Power	40	26	35%	18	13	28%
FR	French	627	406	35%	439	339	23%
FS	Fire Science	735	640	13%	90	78	13%
FT	Future Studies	326	267	18%	-	-	-
GB	General Business	8,546	6,638	22%	5,160	4,006	22%
GC	Printing Arts (Graphics)	62	47	24%	259	202	22%
GE	Geography	587	464	21%	795	661	17%
GL	Geology	1,234	1,065	14%	602	500	17%
GR	German	283	193	32%	366	252	31%
GT	General Technology	1,219	998	18%	601	454	24%
GZ	Glazing	58	57	2%	18	18	0%
HB	Hebrew	25	15	40%	46	31	33%
HE	Home Economics	4,728	3,886	18%	2,103	1,742	17%
HI	History	4,068	3,316	18%	4,728	3,532	25%
HL	Health	2,275	1,974	13%	761	635	17%
HM	Hospitality	32	21	34%	-	-	-
HR	Health Related	1,058	849	20%	-	-	-
HU	Humanities	1,265	1,044	17%	140	125	11%

Table 2 - Course Registration Attrition By Prefix Area
Fall 1980-81 And Fall 1971-72

		FALL 1980-81			FALL 1971-72		
	Prefix Area	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition
IA	Indian Arts	18	17	6%	-	-	-
ID	Interior Design	264	224	15%	-	-	-
IN	Industry	22	14	36%	-	-	-
IT	Italian	89	53	40%	13	10	23%
IW	Iron Working	383	343	10%	70	69	1%
JL	Journalism	512	397	22%	302	268	11%
LA	Legal Assistant	421	325	23%	-	-	-
LB	Library	35	27	23%	-	-	-
LI	Life Insurance	103	85	17%	-	-	-
LL	Lifelong Learning	71	47	34%	-	-	-
LT	Library Tech	104	95	9%	63	59	6%
MA	Mathematics	11,737	8,105	31%	6,359	4,208	34%
MC	Mass Communications	388	265	32%	-	-	-
MG	Management	4,294	3,370	22%	1,655	1,304	21%
MH	Men Hlth/Hum Sc	108	97	10%	159	151	5%
MK	Marketing	1,691	1,318	22%	759	584	23%
ML	Med Lab Tech	426	334	22%	210	178	15%
MN (MC	Machinist Machinists)	5	5	0%	19	19	0%

Table 2 - Course Registration Attrition By Prefix Area
Fall 1980-81 And Fall 1971-72

		FALL 1980-81			FALL 1971-72		
	Prefix Area	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition
MP	Music Perform	2,594	2,035	22%	1,969	1,578	20%
MR	Medical Records	293	229	22%	116	101	13%
MS	Military Science	44	43	2%	43	42	2%
MT	Machine Technolo	761	625	18%	191	160	16%
MU	Music	1,454	1,181	19%	1,471	1,177	20%
MW	Millwork-Cabinet	-	-	-	9	9	0%
NC	Non-Trad Comm	133	98	26%	-	-	-
NS	Nursing Sci/Basic	1,515	1,344	11%	972	874	10%
NU	Nursing-Cont Edu	407	343	16%	1,121	1,065	5%
OA	Operat Engineers	307	282	8%	18	18	0%
OE	Office Education	3,952	2,732	31%	3,103	2,220	28%
PA	Public Admin	72	63	13%	194	165	15%
PC	Plastering-Cement (Paint-Cement)	78	77	1%	155	155	0%
PD	Paint-Decorating	49	44	10%	79	77	3%
PE	Physical Education	15,009	11,558	23%	14,976	13,198	12%
PF	Plumb Pipe Fitti	379	348	8%	23	22	4%
PG	Profes Growth	1,091	1,091	0%	-	-	-
PH	Physics	2,190	1,485	32%	1,040	831	20%

Table 2 - Course Registration Attrition By Prefix Area
Fall 1980-81 And Fall 1971-72

		FALL 1980-81			FALL 1971-72		
	Prefix Area	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition
PI	Philosophy	2,324	1,924	17%	2,826	2,142	24%
PL	Physical Science	540	462	14%	438	352	20%
PM	Parks Management	17	16	6%	-	-	-
PN	Nursing LPN	-	-	-	89	79	11%
PO	Photography	1,315	1,062	19%	396	327	17%
PR	Public Relations	237	198	16%	-	-	-
PS	Political Science	1,744	1,473	16%	1,947	1,633	16%
PY	Psychology	7,273	5,837	20%	5,655	4,367	23%
QC	Quality Control	393	352	10%	176	160	9%
RC	Recreation	269	235	13%	27	23	15%
RE	Reading	3,386	2,651	22%	2,397	1,880	22%
RF	Air Cond & Ref	488	395	19%	-	-	-
RL	Real Estate	1,097	906	17%	-	-	-
RM	Records Mgmt	16	12	25%	-	-	-
RS (TH	Respiratory Care Respiratory Ther)	262	229	13%	125	113	10%
RT	Med Radiography (Radiolog Tech)	221	216	3%	180	176	2%
RU	Russian	-	-	-	20	10	50%

Table 2 - Course Registration Attrition By Prefix Area
Fall 1980-81 And Fall 1971-72

		FALL 1980-81			FALL 1971-72		
	Prefix Area	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition	High Point	End of Semester	Percent Attrition
SA	Sign Painting	-	-	-	15	13	13%
SC	Med Srv Crd/Mgnt	188	139	26%	-	-	-
SE	Speech	2,642	2,152	19%	2,119	1,565	26%
SL	ESL	66	48	27%	-	-	-
SM	Sheet Metal	216	210	3%	136	135	1%
SO	Sociology	3,963	3,247	18%	4,275	3,488	18%
SP	Spanish	2,661	1,759	34%	1,651	1,137	31%
SS	Social Science	117	96	18%	150	105	30%
ST	Solar Tech	194	137	29%	-	-	-
SW	Social Work	138	108	22%	-	-	-
TH (DR	Theatre Arts Drama)	1,162	946	19%	583	448	23%
TM	Tribal Mgnt	19	18	5%	-	-	-
TR	Trade Related	727	706	3%	-	-	-
TV	Industrial TV	23	18	22%	-	-	-
VT	Vocational Tech	-	-	-	11	10	9%
WO	Work Orientation	127	124	2%	-	-	-
WP	Word Processing	413	291	30%	-	-	-
WT	Water Treatment	68	57	16%	12	11	8%

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